

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03912 161610Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/068 W

-----108055 180137Z /13

R 161517Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1256
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3912

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PINT, HO, ES
SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT OF HONDURAN-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 4188, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3835, (C) TEGUCIGALPA
2654

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS WILL COMPLIMENT INFORMATION CONTAINED REF (A) REPORTING FONMIN RODRIGUEZ' COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR:

A. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE RECENT CHANGES DUE, EVEN IN PART FROM A SPECIFIC DESIRE TO SEPARATE CESAR BATRES FROM HIS NEGOTIATING ROLE WHICH DID NOT ENTER INTO THE EQUATION. EMBASSY INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ONLY AREA IN WHICH BATRES RETAINED SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES WAS IN NEGOTIATIONS (REF B) WHERE HIS EXPERTISE WAS RECOGNIZED. BATRES LEFT NEGOTIATING ROLE IN SPITE OF CONSIDERATIONS OF NATIONAL INTEREST BECAUSE HE FELT
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HE COULD KEEP NO POSITION IN GOH WHEN MELGAR REMOVED BECAUSE HE (MELGAR) REFUSED TO FIRE BATRES.

B. GOES POSITION, PARA (1)(E) OF REF (A), SOUNDS MUCH LIKE THAT OUTLINED TO EMBOFFS BY FORMER VICE MINISTER POLICARPO CALLEJAS (REF C). BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY AGREE THAT SETTLEMENT ON ALL ISSUES OTHER THAN BORDER DELINEATION REPRESENTS NO GREAT DIFFICULTY.

DIFFERENCE SEEMS TO BE THAT GOH WANTS AGREEMENTS FOR MIXED COMMISSION TO STUDY BORDER WITH SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT SHORTER THAN WHAT GOES MIGHT WANT, WITH SOME FORM OF BINDING ARBITRATION BEFORE IT GOES AHEAD WITH FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ON OTHER ISSUES.

2. COMMENT: IF THIS IS THE CASE, THEN THE TWO SIDES DO NOT APPEAR THAT FAR APART. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOH'S NEW JUNTA IS SOMEWHAT WEAKER INTERNALLY THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, AND MAY BE LESS ABLE TO FOCUS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR, AT LEAST UNTIL IT BECOMES MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.
JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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